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Sad and Deplorable NEWS

From

OXFORD-SHEIR & BARK-SHEIR.

Being a Lamentable and True

RELATION

Of the

Drowning of about ſixty Perſons, Men, Women and Children, in the Lock, near *Goring* in *Oxford ſheir*; as they were paſſing by water, from *Goring* Feaſt, to *Stately* in *Barkſheir*.

Readers, this ſtory is both ſtrange and true,
And for your good (preſented unto you:)
Be careful of your life, all ſins to fly,
Leſt you by death be taken ſuddenly.
When he is ſent, on you Arreſt to make,
No Fees nor Bail, can purchaſe your eſcape.

LONDON,
Printed for R. *Vaughan*, in the *Little old Baily*.
1674.

READING

Sad News from *Oxford shier*, and *Berkshier*, &c.

TIME was when the Curious World had her eyes alway turned towards the Banks of *Nile*, and the torrid sands of sunburnt *Africa*, in continual expectation of some new and uncouth shapes to be still produced by that Monster-teeming Mother.

But now, as if that vast Continent of Prodigies were contracted into the later small Teutonick engine; It is strange to see how greedie Mortals eye the labouring Press, and with gaping mouths attend its delivery, as ready to swallow and devour what ever it brings forth; and what is more preposterous, the more Elephantine or Garagantuane the brats dimensions seem, whatere it be above the truth, so much the easilier it goes down and is digested by that Monster devouring Monster, the ma-

To satisfy which insatiable Appetite of our News-mongers and their *Athenians*, Heaven and the Elements seem peculiarly to have consented. This being an Age, and this year especially a year of wonders, and if not every where prodigious, yet in no part not remarkable in some eminent example of Providence or other: not to speak now of Wars and Battels, or Christians unnaturally weltring in Christian gore, now in most part of *Europe*; what prodigious Inundations, Snow and Cold have molested our Climate, what losses by Sea, what mischiefs by Land have in several parts afflicted us? but above all, what strange *Excess* of Fury & Madness has of late exercis'd its rage on our peoples minds? what unparalleld and desperate Roberies, Cruelties and Cheats have happened? what Diabolical transports of despair, and Self-Murther, has of late in all parts, in more than Prodigious frequency, seized poor Mortals? In a word, have we not been daily alarmed with an infinite variety of unwonted Accidents, that God seems resolv'd to chastise our delight in false and Romantick news, to glut us with the more serious strangeness of equally sad and wonderful truths? Yes, surely Providence hath given us true subject enough for our discourse, without either careening the Ocean, or ransacking old wives monument for amusing figments When we our

selves

ſelves being become ſo many Prodigies of Sin and Profaneſs, when our days are ſuch, that Vice, that formerly ſhunned the light, now walks unmaſked, and with open face dares plead for the palm, where it was wont to deprecate puniſhment. We cannot wonder if Nature and its Author combine againſt us, & expoſe our Enormities by monſtrous and irregular accidents in the Macrocoſme as are the lively Hieroglyphicks of them; nay, we can expect no leſs than the Meteors and Elements ſhould be armed to chaſtize our violences done to nature, and even the inſtruments of our Life, Pleaſure, and Recreation, be bred and foreſtalled by unſeen and unexpected ſurprizes to revenge our Hypocriſy. This is certainly, what as in general we deſerve, ſo in reality we all might look for, and therefore, however we may ſee theſe things as we think paſs by us, and light on others, as perhaps ſome may be apt to collect from the deplorable example lately arrived, yet are not ſo partially to apply them, as to think thoſe perſons were ere the worſe for being the examples of Gods judgments, or that thoſe things happened to them only, meerly for their ſin, that we ſhould therefore conceit our ſelves the more righteous, or ſpared for our goodneſs; but I rather conſider that our ſins were equally, or perhaps more induſtriouſly leveled at, in ſuch examples

than those of the suffering, and therefore giving you first in charge and caution that *Evangelical* rule, that you shou'd never think persons falling under any disasters to be the greater sinners, but that when all are Sinners, some are made examples to their own health, and admonishment to the living, which admonishment if we take not, we shall all likewise perish; upon this Christian stipulation, I say, that what shall be related to the living, may be to their benefit, made use of without any uncharitable reflections on the dead; who perhaps may be more Innocent than the surviving hearers of the sad catastrophe: I shall give you a punctual account of a most true and unparalleld Disaster which happened at *Goring Lock* going to *Stately*, on Monday the 6th of this instant *July* 1674. about 7 a clock at night, where about 50 or 60 persons of Men, Women and Children, with one Mare crossing the water together in a boat from *Oxfordshire* to *Berkshire*, by the watermens imprudently rowing too neer the shore of the Lock, they were by the force of the water drawn down the Lock, where their boat being presently overwhelmed they were all turned into the Pool, except fourteen or fifteen (who had been all then at the feast at *Goring*) were all unfortunately drowned, & to shew how vain all humane aid is when Destiny interposes, this happened

pened in the view of hundreds of people, then met at the same Feast, near this fatal Lock, who found the exercise of their pastime disturbed and their Jollity dashed by this mournful Disaster, of which they were helpless, but I hope not fruitless Spectators.

The persons drowned, and since taken up, are not yet all known who they were, nor whence they came: the Boatman John Waklin *and his brother Escaped by Swimming*, William Bushnel *of* Hayburn, *whose the Mare was, was taken up alive, he having near* 8 *hours time by Providence of the Almighty allowed him longer to prepare for death then approaching, deceased. his Mare drowned that carried him and E.* Dew *by holding on the Mane to the place where they were taken up. The same* Edward Dew *yet alive, relates that he happened to look to the Bottom of the Lock Pool with his eys open saw many that were drowning sprawling at the bottom like Frogs. Goodman* Morecock *of* Stately, *and his wife were Drowned, but their Son in Law* Francis Higgs *escaped with the loss of his wife (the said* Thomas Morecocks *daughter,) a Woman with Child, and a Child in her Armes, both them drowned. Widdow* Bell *carrying a rich pack of Wares, was drowned, Goodman* Wheeler *of* Mayfeldom *was Drowned his wife miraculously Escaped by catching hold of a mans Leg that got on the bottom of the overwhelmed boat*, Thomas

Smith

Smith of Compton and 3 more of the same Town, with Adam Belinger of Chilton, and one King, a Butcher of Standford, and his wife, were all likewise drowned. And on Thursday the 9th was 12 more taken up, whose names are not yet known, and it is supposed there are yet more at the botton of the Pool not yet discovered.

Readers,

You have here though a strange and very sad relation, yet very true, I dare assure you; but because there are dayly such sad stories, as since the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah the like was never heard of, it will (I know) be very difficult to perswade many that what is related is true, especially such as live in remote places, who see not the sad relations which London affords or other great citys or towns where much people inhabite. What may we beleive, but that the great day is neer, and if we diligently search the Scriptures we shall find these the later times of which our Saviour gave us the signs.

FINIS.